


Appendices

Appendix A

History of recreation in Capitol State Forest

The recreation history within Capitol State Forest dates back to the late 1930s. At that time, with threat of forest fires fresh in people's minds, public access to the forest was restricted to help protect the recently planted seedlings. Fall hunting was permitted—in fact the state would ferry people into the forest and out again at night. Also during this time, some of the old railroad grades were beginning to be used as recreation trails.

In 1957 Capitol State Forest was opened up to the public and some fire control camps—authorized camping sites, mostly near streams—were established in order to direct people to safe places to camp and have their campfires.

In 1964, General Fund money had been obtained from the legislature, and Hollywood Camp (closed years ago), Camp Wedekind (closed), Sherman Valley Campground, Bordeaux Campground, North Creek Camp and Porter Creek Camp were developed. In addition, a recreation trail system extending across the entire forest was constructed, with the primary recreation user being horse riders.

In 1973, Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) money became available, and with that money came the development of educational sites such as the McLane Creek Nature Center and Mima Mounds Interpretive Center as well as the trailhead near Mima Falls. Also the former green-line trail system was expanded using early IAC funding.

In 1974, ORV funds became available and 23 miles of trail were added to the North Rim #1 trail system. In addition, a new trailhead, the Rock Candy Trailhead, was developed in the northern portion of the forest, and the Mt. Molly Campground was constructed along the eastern edge.

In 1975, after much debate, the recreation trail system was divided into motorized and non-motorized use, and a seasonal closure was implemented to help protect the trail system.

In the mid-1980s, Mt. Molly and Bordeaux Campgrounds were combined and moved to what is known today as the Middle Waddell Campground. During this time period, mountain biking use also became popular.

From the early 1990s to the present day, recreation funding continues to be scarce. Efforts have, therefore, been put forward to improve the quality of existing sites by improving signage, installing recreation bridges, making sites ADA accessible, and addressing environmental problems being caused by recreation sites and trails.

Appendix B

DNR staff inventory of current known issues and challenges

The following is a list of known issues and challenges that confront those who manage recreation in the Capitol State Forest on a daily basis. Several of these items will be covered within this plan, outlining goals and strategies to help alleviate/mitigate them. Others may need to be addressed with over time. New and different issues and challenges will continue to appear in the future as new activities are introduced to the area, use patterns change, and the population continues to increase.

The issues and challenges have been divided into the following four categories:

- **Current recreational activities**
Legitimate activities that are a component of our current recreational program
- **Inherent to the land we manage**
Issues and challenges that are related to managing our large land base within a “working forest”
- **Undesignated use and misuse**
Issues and challenges that are related to uses that are not legitimate recreational activities
- **Resources and funding limitations**
Obstacles that the recreation program encounters due to funding limitations

CURRENT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Disproportionate motorized trail use

The motorized trails in the northeast quarter of the forest receive more intense use and, therefore, are in need of more frequent maintenance.

Disproportionate non-motorized trail use

The non-motorized trails in the eastern portion of the forest receive more intense use and, therefore, are in need, of more frequent maintenance.

Commercial events

Permitted events have taken place in the forest in which the sponsor is a business—not a recreation club or nonprofit group—and, supposedly, only event costs are covered; no profit is made.

Shooting concerns

Neighbors are concerned about target shooting which takes place within Middle Waddell Rock Pit (Triangle Pit). They fear that shooters could be aiming in their direction and the garbage dumping.

Trail noise

The noise from motorcycles and quads riding the Middle Waddell Loop Trail in S16 T17N R3W, especially during events, has brought forth complaints from adjacent landowners.

Capacity

Overuse or crowded conditions occur in certain areas of the forest. The areas of concern are the Waddell corridor, (near Margaret McKenny and Middle Waddell Campgrounds), and the McLane Creek Nature Center.

INHERENT TO THE LAND WE MANAGE

Dumping

The illegal dumping of household garbage, large appliances and old vehicles is commonplace, especially on dirt forest spur roads near the outskirts of the forest.

Trail closures due to management activities

During harvest operations and road construction large sections of trail and loop rides are often closed even though only a small stretch of trail is affected by the operation.

UNDESIGNATED USE AND MISUSE

Undesignated trail development

Undesignated trails have been found carved into various places within the forest landscape. Structures such as wooden ramps and obstacles have been found on trails. Such trails are most often frequented by “extreme” mountain bike riders. These are especially dangerous if a rider on a motorcycle or ATV happened upon them.

Neighbors building connector trails to the forest

Undesignated user-built trails connecting private residences to the forest are commonplace and sometimes cross through streams. These trails provide access by foot, motorcycle, ATV and horseback. At times these trails provide access for others to dump garbage.

Misuse of the Waddell Creek Rock Pit

Triangle Rock Pit has been the site of more frequent misuse over the past several years. Large appliances, as well as computer monitors and household garbage, are often dumped here. DNR has spent up to \$4,000 per year to clean up the area. In addition, late night shooting and alcohol-related activities disturb nearby neighbors.

Shooting of road signs

The shooting of roadside signs is a common occurrence, especially during and just prior to hunting season.

Homesteading

Homesteading is defined by staying past the seven-day limit in campgrounds. Homesteading is prevalent in those campgrounds without volunteer hosts or in sites in more remote areas.

Non-permitted events

Businesses host guided tours and other events or activities within Capitol State Forest and charge a fee. These businesses have not received permission from DNR to use the forest.

Inappropriate parties

Parties are common in the Porter Creek Campground and Camp Wedekind (closed), especially during graduation time. These parties are often alcohol-related and result in vandalism to the facility.

Occasional destruction of facilities

From time to time structures in our campgrounds and trailheads are completely destroyed. These occurrences often appear to be linked to parties with alcohol.

Occasional wood and brush theft

The theft of firewood, cedar shakes and brush such as salal is removed from the forest without permit. This occurs throughout the forest.

4x4 misuse

After in first snow in winter local individuals with 4x4 trucks, SUVs and jeeps drive up into the forest, at times leaving the forest roads and damaging vegetation and streams. This occurs most often on and around the C-line, all the way through the forest.

Reckless shooting

At times individuals shoot in areas not appropriate for that use. Most often this occurs near the exterior of the forest near private homes or across or over trails.

RESOURCES AND FUNDING LIMITATIONS

Budgetary limitations

DNR's budget for recreation maintenance has declined steadily over the past several biennia. In addition, the budgets for inmate crews and the WCC program have been reduced, resulting in:

- Less money and less workforce for facilities and trail maintenance
- Lack of money for rehabilitation of older facilities
- Lack of money for needed capital improvements (i.e., recreation bridge replacements)
- Lack of money for campground host stipends

Limited enforcement officers

The Capitol State Forest has one fully commissioned Education and Enforcement Officer. The officer is responsible not only for the 91,650 acre Capitol State Forest, but for an additional 200,000 across Western Washington. The officer also assists on investigations and emphasis patrols all over the state. Our enforcement officer receives backup from local county sheriffs and the State Patrol, as their resources permit.

Little funding for maintenance and garbage pick-up

In the past, crews from Cedar Creek Correction Center have performed routine maintenance in campgrounds and on trails. Inmate crews also gathered and disposed of garbage in the campgrounds, and cleaned and repaired toilet facilities. These services were paid for by the camps program with its General Fund budget allotment. The 2004-2005 budget has reduced this General Fund money; therefore crews are not able to continue these services on a regular basis.

Appendix C

Sustainable management criteria

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA FOR RECREATION TRAILS AND SITES

Below is a two-step process to determine if the management of recreation facilities (existing or proposed) exercises sustainable management practices.

Step 1

- Identify reliable funding source
- Ensure length of lease/easement meets funding requirement
- Determine staff availability to manage the project

If all of the above items are met, continue below:

Step 2

- Ability to manage facility long term:
 - Maintenance dollars
 - Labor crews (i.e., WCC, camps, fire crews)
 - Staff time to oversee the maintenance and management
- Commitment by volunteers (i.e., labor contribution)
- Ability to mitigate or manage potential resource impacts
- Consistent with DNR policy, procedures and regulations
 - RCW, WAC, Proviso language
 - HCP
 - RMAP process
 - Forest Practices
 - Sustainable Harvest Calculation
 - Other_____
- Priority given by Fuzzy Top and Larch Mountain teams
- Support by external stakeholders (i.e., citizen working group, neighbors, county or city government, etc.)
- Support primary objectives of the forest (i.e., dispersed trail system allows timber management across landscape)

Appendix D

Chart 6: 2003 Group volunteer organizations and hours

Equestrian organizations

Backcountry Horsemen - Grays Harbor Chapter	572
Backcountry Horsemen - Capitol Riders Chapter	118
Backcountry Horsemen - Scatter Creek Riders	117.5
Backcountry Horsemen - Nisqually Chapter	65
McCleary Riders	40
Grays Harbor Saddle Club	48
National Association of Competitive Mounted Orienteering	27

Total Equestrian Hours: 987.5

Motorized organizations

Cascade Family Motorcycle Club	205
East Grays Harbor Search and Rescue	113
River City Motorcycle Club	104
Tacoma Trail Cruisers	1202
Washington ATV Association	260

Total Motorized Hours: 1884

Gatekeepers

ADA Hunter Program	120
McLane Creek Nature Center Gatekeeper	364

Total Hours: 484

Miscellaneous volunteer groups

Boy Scout Troop 208	24
Olympia Trail Running Group	32

Total Hours: 56

2003 Volunteer Hours Total: 3,411.5

Appendix E

Below is a general timeline, provided to outline the major planning steps of the public input component. More detail of this process can be found in Part III.

Public outreach and Citizen Working Group timeline

BEGIN PUBLIC OUTREACH

- 1/23/02 Introduce Plan at Annual Recreation User Group Meeting and facilitate a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) exercise
- 3/20/02 Public kick-off meeting
- 4/01/02 Survey process begins

ROCK CANDY MEETINGS

- 5/8/02 First Rock Candy Meeting; introduce sideboards
- 5/29/02 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Identify concerns
- 6/19/02 Prioritize solutions
Education, enforcement, engineering
- 7/24/02 Vandalism, Design-a-Forest
Guest speaker: Crime Stoppers, Dusty Pierpoint of the Lacey Police Department
- 9/25/02 Review proposed initiatives
Guest speaker: Leave-No-Trace
- 10/23/02 Facilities: Part I
Introduce management principles
- 11/20/02 Facilities: Part II
- 12/1/02 Focus on trails
Guest: Bob Yandle, Capitol State Forest Recreation Forester
- 1/22/03 Introduce three scenarios
Shooting discussion
Guest: Vicki Christiansen, Pacific Cascade Region Manager
- 4/30/03 Discuss scenarios, recognize members

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- 5/13/03 Mail out preferred alternative
- 5/21/03 Receive feedback from Rock Candy
- June/03 Refine preferred alternative and distribute to Rock Candy

Appendix F

Planning exercise

The planning exercise, also known as a SWOT exercise, asks participants to list the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to recreation in Capitol State Forest. These recommendations helped guide DNR in developing the final management strategies for the recreation trails and facilities in the Capitol State Forest. The final management strategies for sites and facilities can be found in *Part II, Recreation Management*, and more detail of the Citizen Working Group's process can be found in *Part III, Public Participation*.

The planning exercise was conducted at three different times. Each time forest trails and their locations were listed as strengths. Weaknesses at each meeting include the lack of money to maintain recreation areas and illegal dumping occurring within the forest. When asked to list the opportunities, each group mentioned the possibility of increasing penalties and charging fees. Mention penalties and fees might be applied those who damage resources and diminished public safety. Below is the list of the three groups that participated in the SWOT exercise and a brief description of each.

Group 1:

Capitol State Forest Annual Recreation User Group meeting SWOT exercise

At the Capitol State Forest Annual Recreation User Group meeting held on January 23, 2002, users were divided into three groups: green, gold and silver. Each group was asked to list the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities of public use and threats (SWOT) in Capitol State Forest. Similar strengths, weaknesses and opportunities were identified across all groups.

Group 2

Rock Candy Citizen Working Group SWOT exercise

The SWOT exercise began with the group breaking into small groups consisting of two or three individuals. Each group was asked to generate a list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to recreation in Capitol State Forest. Each group consisted of different types of recreational users and neighbors. This exercise served as a means to obtain data, as well as to educate the members of the issues the different recreational users and neighbors faced.

Group 3

Tumwater High School SWOT exercise

A leadership class at Tumwater High School listed the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of recreation in Capitol State Forest. Four groups consisting of three students each developed a comprehensive list of positive and negative attributes related to recreating in Capitol State Forest. Similar strengths, weaknesses and opportunities were identified across all groups.

Appendix G

Recommendations for recreation facilities and trails from the Citizen Working Group

Below is a summary of the recommendations given by the citizen's working group (Rock Candy Group). These recommendations were meant to help guide DNR in developing the final management strategies for the recreation trails and facilities in the Capitol State Forest. The final management strategies for sites and facilities can be found in *Part II, Recreation Management Goals and Strategies* and more detail of the Citizen Working Group's process can be found in *Part III, Public Participation*. In addition, detailed descriptions of each facility and associated recommendations can be found in *Appendix H*.

ROCK CANDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recreation Areas

1. Porter Creek

Relocate current facilities and expand in an area away from Porter Creek to mitigate damages and allow for conversion back to a natural stream setting.

Campground

- Relocate
- Add host spot
- Enlarge to a total of 20 spots. Currently there are 16 spots.
- Accommodate motorized and non-motorized use

Trailhead

- Mid-sized expansion
- Develop new connector to the NM Trail system (eliminate need for a new bridge over Porter Creek)
- Used to access the motorized trail system
- Provide larger parking area to accommodate vehicles (approximately half the size of Middle Waddle parking area)
- Separate use within the area
- Add a day-use pavilion

2. North Creek Campground

Use existing site as a trailhead only—no camping

- Serves as trailhead for new Triangle Trail

3. Sherman Valley Campground

- Eliminate campground completely

4. Fall Creek

Campground

- Retain Loop “A” camping; relocate Loop “B” away from stream

Trailhead

- Cosmetic site improvements

5. Middle Waddell

Campground

- Same as existing

Trailhead

- Repave
- Construct loading ramps for motorcycles
- Construct a two-way entrance
- Construct a pavilion to use staging events

6. Margaret McKenny

Campground

- Eliminate three walk-in sites adjacent to Waddell Creek and replace strategically
- Cosmetic site improvements

7. Mima Falls

Campground

- Eliminate upper camping area, five sites
- Possibly convert to group permitted use only

Trailhead

- Retain as is

8. Bob Bammert Grove Loop Trail

One of three corners of the Triangle Trail, retain as is

Trailhead

- Retain as is

9. Rock Candy Trailhead

- Pave area
- Improve/new signage
- Install fencing to better define area
- Improve parking

10. McLane Creek Nature Center and Demonstration Forest

- Expand hiking trail by adding two to three miles on new trail (B-8000 area)
- Expand parking, if possible
- Improvements to demonstration forest trails

11. Camp Wedekind (closed due to abuse)

- Convert to small rest stops/picnic areas off of non-motorized trail system
- Use existing lease to create two to three small rest stops on non-motorized trails

12. Fuzzy Top Trail

- Create a small picnic area that serves the new Triangle Trail

TRAIL SYSTEMS

Hiking

- McLane Loop-approximately two to three miles trail off of the existing McLane Creek Trail that extends into Capitol State Forest (possibly in the B-8000 area)
- Triangle Trail- approximately 10 miles, hiker-only trail attaching North Creek Area, Fuzzy Top and Bob Bammert Grove

Non-Motorized

- Non-motorized Connector - construct an approximately two mile shortcut from Fall Creek to Mima Falls

Motorized

- Northwest Motorized Connector: Creates a connection from North Rim #1 to Mount Molly Porter #3

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- Northeast Motorized Connector: Creates a connection from North Rim #1 to Mount Molly Porter #3

Mountain biking/hiking

- Construct a single-track and small trailhead area located on the south end of the forest (E-Line area). Cooperative DNR/user-built and maintained trail system

Additional Rock Candy recommendations

Motorized

- Reopen the abandoned Al Davis Road (D-4800) as a trail
- Rock Candy Trailhead expansion with signage

Horse

- Concern of intersecting Triangle Trail with existing non-motorized trail
- Keep Fall Creek Campground open

Mountain biking

- Keep Porter Creek primitive
- Upgrade Rock Candy, Middle Waddle

Hiking

- Restrict Mountain biking use during winter months
- Stress the importance of signage
- Resolve “shooting gallery” controversy

Appendix H

Facilities inventory with management strategies

Capitol State Forest, commonly seen as “in my backyard” to many of its recreation users, is a popular place to get away and recreate after work, during the weekend, or for a week-long vacation. The westside of the forest, situated in rural Grays Harbor County, is frequently accessed by locals and is popular with hunters via State Highways 8 and 12. The east side of the forest, located close to urban areas in Thurston and Pierce Counties, allows easy access from Interstate-5.

Capitol State Forest recreation opportunities range from developed facilities, including campgrounds, day use areas/trailheads and trails, to dispersed uses, such as hunting, fishing, target shooting and sightseeing. Several of the forest’s first campgrounds were originally opened up to the public in the late 1950s. With the forest then much younger in age and the threat of major disaster caused by a campfire more probable, these camping sites were built adjacent to streams where the risk of having a forest fire was greatly reduced.

All facilities in the forest are open annually from April 1st through October 31st, with the exception of three day-use/trailhead facilities which are open year-round: Rock Candy Trailhead, McLane Creek Nature Center and Mima Mounds Natural Area. Facilities are free of charge and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Facilities in the forest include:

- Seven campgrounds
- Five day-use areas/trailheads
- 160 miles of trails

The forest’s facilities are considered primitive, providing no electrical hookups, sewer hookups or running water. Recent ADA improvements have been made to a majority of facilities in the Capitol State Forest. These improvements include ADA toilets, loading ramps and campsites amenities.

Campgrounds are located in a wooded setting, with many situated near a stream. Campgrounds vary in size from 5 campsites to 25 sites. Smaller campgrounds facilitate tent camping and small RVs, while the larger facilities have pull-through RV parking. Campground amenities include hand-pump wells, fire pits, picnic tables and vault toilets. Guests are invited to stay up to seven days per calendar year in the forest’s campgrounds.

FACILITIES INVENTORY

Fall Creek Campground

Location: Thurston County, off of the C-6000 road

Legal Description: S24, T17N, R4W

Lease: #61001

History/evolution

During the early to mid 1970s, the most popular site in this area was the Maple Flats campground. However, it was built directly adjacent to Fall Creek, which was eroding and the site was abandoned in 1976. To take its place, Fall Creek Campground was constructed. Originally this new site was eight acres and offered eight campsites, one well, toilets, and horse corrals. The campground was upgraded in the mid 1990s, using a grant obtained from IAC. Some of the improvements allowed the site to become ADA accessible.

Recreation in the Fall Creek Area has taken place for many years, from camping to trail riding, thousands visit the area each year. The primary access route to the area was via the C-3000 road (commonly known as the Sherman Valley Road). In the year 2000 a new road, the C-6000, was constructed north of the Fall Creek area for forest management purposes. This road also provided access to the campground and the Fall Creek trailhead. In 2001 the C-3000 road was abandoned due to its streamside adjacency and high maintenance costs. Thus, leaving the C-6000 as the only available road left to access the area. This new road proved to be narrow and steep for those pulling horse trailers as well as log trucks, and, consequently was upgraded in 2003 to help facilitate access for all vehicle types.

Current

This is a general use campground with horse facilities and is considered a favorite among local equestrian groups. There are eight campsites, one well, four vault toilets, one horse mounting ramp, horse corrals, and stalls. The site has two main areas. The northernmost area (Loop B) of the site is largely adjacent to Fall Creek, a fish-bearing stream. The southern portion (Loop A) has more of a buffer between the stream and the site. The site is linked to the non-motorized trail network via Green Line #6 and Mima Porter #8.

Management recommendation

- Continue to maintain Loop A of the Fall Creek Campground in its current location, following DNR facility maintenance standards.
- The campground should be monitored on a regular basis to ensure that the use of the sites in Loop B are not having a detrimental effect upon Fall Creek. Any indication of degradation of the stream-side area should be corrected as soon as possible. This includes controlling foot access to prevent the bank from being trampled and denuded of vegetation.
- Monitor funding opportunities and look to formally abandon Loop B and relocate it directly to the west of Loop A.

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- Continue to have a seasonal closure of the site due to its close proximity to Fall Creek, and to allow DNR the opportunity perform needed maintenance projects.

Fall Creek Trailhead

Location: Thurston County, off of the C-6000 road

Legal Description: S25, T17N, R4W

Lease: #69838

History/evolution

Built in the mid 1990s using funds from IAC, this approximately one acre trailhead was constructed to provide equestrian users and hikers a place to park and enjoy the non-motorized trail system. Since the trailhead's construction, mountain biking has become a very popular activity within the forest, and this trailhead is now seen as an important trail access point for this recreation user group as well.

Current

The Fall Creek Trailhead includes a vault toilet, a horse mounting ramp, information board, and hitching rails. The trailhead is located just south of the Fall Creek Campground and is approximately 160 feet from Fall Creek itself. The site is linked to the non-motorized trail system via Green Line #6 and Mima Porter #8.

Road access to this site is from the C-6000 road. See History/evolution of the Fall Creek Campground for more information.

Management recommendations

- Continue to maintain the Fall Creek Trailhead in its current location, following DNR facility maintenance standards
- Make cosmetic improvements to the site and improve overall signage
- Regularly monitor the trailhead and associated access road to ensure that the use is not detrimental to Fall Creek
- Encourage groups to hold small-scale organized events from this site

Sherman Valley Campground

Location: Thurston County, off of the D-Line road

Legal Description: S11,12, T16N, R4W

Lease: #58151

History/evolution

The Sherman Valley site was originally a logging camp of the Mason County Logging Company. Sherman Valley was established as a campground in the early 1960s when the Legislature provided General Fund money for its construction. Fishing, hunting and hiking were popular activities of those who frequented the site early on. In 1998, Health and Safety Funds were used to upgrade and improve the site. Improvements included the construction of an ADA-accessible toilet near the walk-in sites, the addition of rock to some campsites, and crushed rock surfacing on a short trail that provides access to a well.

Current

Sherman Valley is a small campground that offer seven campsites (three of which are walk-in) on two separate loops, three vault toilets and a well. The site sits adjacent to Cedar Creek and is located directly off of the paved D-Line road. Local campers and hunters frequent the site during the summer and fall months. Sherman Valley is primarily a tent-camping site, but it can accommodate conversion vans and small RVs.

Management issues with Sherman Valley Campground

- Repeated site erosion caused by Cedar Creek during periods of high flow. Over the past several years, this has weakened several alder and fir trees, which have then blown down, displacing soil and shrinking the size of some campsites
- Difficulty mitigating the impact from visitors. Campsites are close to the water and nearly at water level. Location of campsites provides visitors easy access to the stream, thus impacting the stream bank
- Repeated vandalism and frequent, extended use by homeless individuals. It is also difficult to keep individuals out during the winter/closed season because there is no gate to control access
- Restroom facilities. Those in the upper loop are not ADA accessible and are old and becoming expensive to fix. One ADA accessible restroom was removed from the lower walk-in loop in 2002 after vandals knocked it over, destroying the walls and roof

Management recommendations

- Maintain the campground over the next 2 to 3 years in its current location as a primary tent camping/small vehicle facility, following DNR facility maintenance standards
- Develop a plan to eliminate or relocate the Sherman Valley campground

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- Remove all structures and revegetate the area, restoring the streamside habitat to near natural conditions
 - Determine the lease implications related to abandoning this site

Porter Creek Campground

Location: Grays Harbor County, off of the B-Line road

Legal Description: S12, T17N, R5W

Lease: #58133

History/evolution

Porter Creek Campground is a longtime favorite of the citizens living in or near Grays Harbor County. Dating back to the early 1960s, this campground was built with General Fund money and was originally constructed near Porter Creek to reduce the risk of a human-caused fire. In 1995, ADA upgrades were completed to the site. These upgrades included the installation of an ADA accessible toilet and the establishment of a campsite with an ADA table, fireplace and trail leading to the toilet. The B-Line, which provides road access to the site, was paved in the mid 1990s. This significantly reduced the road's impact on Porter Creek and improved access to the site. A camp host site was constructed near the restroom facilities in 2000.

Current

This campground has 13 campsites (in 2 separate loops), 2 picnic sites, a host site, and 4 vault toilets, and a corral for horses. The campground is adjacent to Porter Creek and surrounded by large Douglas-fir trees, providing visitors with a calm, forested experience and a cool place to escape from the summer heat. The campground does have a host site; however, it has lack of phone lines and minimal cell coverage in the area, which could limit response time in case of emergency, which makes having a host at the site not feasible at this time. Access to the campground is via the B-Line road, which is a narrow, single lane, partially paved road. The campground currently links to Mount Molly Porter #3 of the motorized trail system and Green Line #6 of the non-motorized trail system. Also, a 0.70-mile hiking trail leads from the campground to Porter Falls.

Historically, the Porter Creek Campground has sustained much public misuse and abuse. Large parties, homeless individuals occupying sites for an extended period of time, and illegal activities are common, mostly due to the site's somewhat remote location. Porter Creek Campground is not close to other recreation sites and, therefore, is not patrolled as frequently. In 2001, DNR established a camp host site and found an individual to act as the site host. The program was very successful, and misuse was substantially reduced. However, the lack of a telephone and minimal cell phone coverage resulted in no guaranteed way to contact emergency (911) services. This lack of reliable communications was the deciding factor in DNR's decision not to continue the host program after the 2002 season.

Management recommendations

- Continue to maintain Porter Creek Campground in its current location, following DNR facility maintenance standards
- Regularly monitor the campground to ensure that the use of the site is not having a detrimental effect on Porter Creek. Correct any indication of misuse, such as vehicles in the stream, as soon as possible. Monitor the streamside area and control foot access when possible to prevent the bank from being trampled and denuded of vegetation

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- Continue seasonal closure of the site due to its close proximity to Porter Creek, and allow DNR the opportunity to perform needed maintenance
 - Monitor funding opportunities and reevaluate the possibility of moving the site over time. A possible future location would be located north of the C-1000 road on the west side of Porter Creek, the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 12, Township 17 North, Range 5 West. The new design should consider an expansion with additional campsites, a day-use pavilion and trailhead facility. Prior to any expansion, the goal of managing abuse/misuse problems associated with the site should be accomplished to prevent building a new facility that may be an easy target for abuse and possibly destroyed
 - Manage abuse/misuse problems associated with the site by:
 - Increasing DNR scheduled patrols of the site
 - Establishing a new signing program to help educate campers and enforce the seven-day stay limit
 - Develop partnerships with ORV and equestrian clubs and/or the local community to assist in patrolling the Porter Creek Campground
 - Examine the possibility of obtaining better communications to the site, which will allow DNR the possibility of reestablishing its host program

Porter Creek Trailhead

Location: Grays Harbor County, off of the B-Line road

Legal Description: S12, T17N, R5W

Lease: #58133

Current

There is a small, informal trailhead at the Porter Creek Campground that allows access to the non-motorized and the motorized trail systems. The trailhead allows parking for three to four vehicles with trailers, and sits directly adjacent to Porter Creek.

Management recommendations

- Pursue the opportunity to formally establish a trailhead in the abandoned rock quarry east of the Porter Creek Campground to help distribute both motorized and non-motorized use away from the Waddell Creek area
- Explore the possibility of transferring the lease from Camp Wedekind (closed) to the area. A lease will also aid the department in seeking outside funding, if it should necessary
- Conduct some minor work in the area (i.e., add rock) to smooth the transition into the parking area(s)
- Create signboards and post signs explaining trail locations and rules of the forest
- Find a user group or club to adopt the trailhead to help the department with its upkeep and in patrolling the site
- Monitor funding opportunities and evaluate the possibility of moving the trailhead if and when the campground is relocated. A possible future location would be the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 12, Township 17 North, Range 5 West, to the north of the C-1000 road. Prior to any expansion, the goal of managing abuse/misuse problems associated with the area should be remedied to prevent building a new facility that will just be abused and destroyed

Discussion

There is the potential to establish a primitive trailhead in the abandoned rock quarry just south of the North Fork of Porter Creek in Section 12, Township 17 North, Range 5 West, adjacent to the B-1000 road. There are actually two wide spots directly off of the B-1000. The first is an old rock stockpile area and the second being the actual quarry itself. Both could potentially be utilized: the first area for a motorized trailhead and the second for a non-motorized trailhead. In fact, people are already using these areas to park. Both areas are essentially rocked and due to their past uses appear to provide no future opportunity for reforestation. The one issue to be addressed would be that both sites are within close proximity to fish-bearing streams, which would mean the riparian conservation strategies of the HCP issues would need to be addressed. So the question to be researched is, "Would a trailhead facility be the appropriate use of these sites given the fact that neither appear to have a real potential for reforestation or contributing to the streamside habitat, as they currently exist?"

The concept behind an expanded, formalized trailhead in the area has many purposes:

- If large enough, a formalized trailhead could help transfer some of the use from the Waddell Creek Corridor to the west side of the forest, thus reducing pressure on the motorized and non-motorized trails in the south
- A formalized trailhead would provide an area where smaller permitted events could be held. Such events tend to draw in campers, filling the campground with legitimate campers and reducing inappropriate use
- A trailhead would draw more legitimate use to the area, reducing vandalism and inappropriate use of the campground
- This would provide for the only trailhead facility in Capitol State Forest located in Grays Harbor County

North Creek Campground

Location: Grays Harbor County, off of the D-line road

Legal Description: S8, T16N, R4W

Lease: #58130

History/evolution

The North Creek site was originally a logging camp of the Mason County Logging Company. North Creek was established as a campground in the early 1960s, when the Legislature provided General Fund money for its construction. Fishing, hunting and hiking were popular activities of those who frequented the site in the early years. In 1998, Health and Safety Funds were used to upgrade and improve the site to make it ADA accessible to the site.

Current

This is a small campground with five campsites; two vault toilets and a hand well. The campground is located directly adjacent to Cedar Creek. The site's proximity and setting make it a very popular location for locals to come to camp, fish and hunt. This is primarily a tent-camping site, but it can accommodate small RVs and conversion vans. Although the site does not provide formal access to the motorized or non-motorized trail system, a short hiking trail does begin from this site. The trail runs east approximately 2.5 miles to Drooping Fir, an old Douglas-fir tree that has a very narrow crown with limbs that do not extend more than four feet from its trunk.

Currently, the area just outside of the North Creek Campground's main loop provides parking to allow access to the Drooping Fir Trail. A concept was developed during the public use planning process to create a 10+ mile hiking-only trail (a.k.a. The Triangle Trail), connecting Bob Bammert Grove, Fuzzy Top and Drooping Fir to each other and into a triangle. This proposed concept would utilize North Creek Campground for parking to access this trail. (See Appendix J.)

Management recommendations

- Continue to maintain the North Creek Campground in its current location as a primary tent camping/small vehicle facility, following DNR facility maintenance standards
- Monitor the campground on a regular basis to ensure that the use of the site is not having a detrimental effect on Cedar Creek. Correct any degradation of the streamside area as soon as possible. Control foot access to prevent the bank from being trampled and denuded of vegetation
- Continue the seasonal closure of the site, due to its close proximity to Cedar Creek, and allow DNR the opportunity to perform needed maintenance
- Monitor funding opportunities, and reevaluate the possibility of moving the site over time due to its close proximity to Cedar Creek, keeping in mind that camping-only sites are used frequently

Mima Falls Campground and Trailhead

Location: Thurston County, off of the Marksman County Road

Legal Description: S4, T16N, R3W

Leases: Campground #62347; Trailhead #61073

History/evolution

Constructed in the mid 1970s, this site was originally a trailhead that provided access to the non-motorized trail system. It included garbage cans, picnic tables and two toilets. In 1983, an upper loop was constructed, adding five campsites with corrals, two restrooms, and a well. In 1998, with ADA funds and Health and Safety funds, the site was upgraded further and accessibility improvements were made. These two improvements included adding an ADA accessible horse mounting ramp in the lower day-use area, replacing the existing toilets with ADA accessible toilets, and surfacing five campsites with crushed rock.

Current

This is a small trailhead and campground facility able to support equestrian use. The parking area provides enough space to park six to seven vehicles with trailers. There is also a picnic spot with three tables, one toilet, ADA accessible horse mounting ramp, hitching posts and an information board. In the upper loop there are five campsites, two restrooms, horse corrals and a well. This facility is located directly adjacent to private residences to the south and the Evergreen Gun Club to the east. Currently no garbage pick-up is provided to this site and a local chapter of the Backcountry Horseman has adopted the site and assists the department with maintenance and repair. A gate at the entrance to the site allows the department to have access control during the seasonal closure. This site provides access to the forest's non-motorized trail network via the Mima Porter #8 trail.

Over the past two years, homeless individuals have frequented this site more often. In addition, the area does not appear to receive a substantial amount of day-use. The site was temporarily closed for three months in the summer of 2003, due to lack of funding. There may be a benefit to altering the use of Mima Falls if a savings can be realized and that savings applied to another facility in the area that might provide more useful services to our recreation users.

Management recommendations

- Retain the Mima Falls Campground and Trailhead as is for the next five years. During this time, begin an assessment of the site, exploring the possibility of:
 - Retaining it as is
 - Retaining it as is with a partnership agreement in place to assist with maintenance and repair
 - Converting it to a day-use picnic site or a reservation-only campground
 - Converting the area to more parking to allow for a larger trailhead in which to hold small, permitted events
 - Conduct use tallies and work with local recreation clubs and the public to evaluate the need and implications of changing the site's use

-
- Provide better signage and advertise the facility along the Bordeaux county road
 - Promote Mima Falls for small-sized events

Margaret McKenny Campground

Location: Thurston County, off the Waddell Creek County Road 2.0 miles northwest of Littlerock, WA

Legal Description: S28,33, T17N, R3W

Lease: #58149

History/evolution

Margaret McKenny Campground is named for a local naturalist, Miss Margaret McKenny, whose books on native birds and plants are widely known throughout the northwest.

In the 1960s the site was an old jeep road that lead to a small apple orchard, in what is now the grassy area in Loop “C”. The formal campground was constructed and dedicated in 1967. It consisted of one loop with seven sites that had picnic tables and campfire rings. There were also toilets and access to Waddell Creek. The center point of the facility was the grassy area where the apple orchard once sat. In the late 1970s the site was expanded for the first time, adding six walk-in campsites, three campsites with horse corrals, five toilets, a well with hand pump and a parking area. The site then had a total of 16 campsites—10 standard and 6 walk-in.

In 1992 Margaret McKenny Campground went through its second expansion, funded by the IAC. Two new loops were constructed, Loop “A” and Loop “B”. Construction of Loop “A” added five traditional campsites and one toilet, and Loop “B” added six campsites with horse corrals and one toilet. Also, during this expansion, the three horse campsites built in the 1970s were removed, and roads within the site were paved.

In the mid 1990s, ADA upgrades were made to the facility. This included retrofitting one campsite to be ADA accessible and constructing a horse mounting ramp. In addition, a camp host site was constructed near the entrance which has sewer hookup, electricity and phone service, and a second well was installed, thus, upgrading the site to its current state.

Current

Margaret McKenny is a campground with three loops. Loop “A” has five sites that accommodate tent and small RV camping. Loop “B” has six campsites with horse corrals. Loop “C” has seven campsites that accommodate tent and small RV camping, six walk-in tent campsites, and a large grassy picnic area. Combined, there are 24 campsites (one of which is a larger group site), 1 camp host site, 6 vault toilets, an ADA accessible horse mounting ramp, and horse stalls. Three of the walk-in campsites are located directly adjacent to Waddell Creek. Due to the lack visibility from the main campground, these walk-in sites often have an increased rate of vandalism and misuse. In addition, ongoing misuse such as removing border wood, expanding campsites, and dumping garbage has the potential to impact the adjacent stream. Another issue that arises at times within Margaret McKenny Campground is that of individuals without horses occupying one of the in campsites that can accommodate horses. This becomes a big issue on busy summer weekends. The campground is run on a first-come, first-served basis, and aside from asking politely, there is no legal mechanism DNR has to make non-equestrian users change campsites.

The site also has a day-use parking area that can accommodate approximately eight to ten vehicles with trailers.

DNR has had a successful camp host program within this heavily used site for several years. The site provides walk-in access to Waddell Creek and links to the non-motorized trail system via Green Line #6A. A temporary three-month closure took place in summer of 2003 due to lack of funding.

Management recommendations

- Eliminate the three walk-in campsites near Waddell Creek and move them to another area within the lease boundary, resulting in no net loss of campsites
- Recognize the day-use parking area within Margaret McKenny Campground as a formal trailhead
- Conduct cosmetic site improvements to the entire facility
- Conduct moderate upgrades, replacing older toilets and establishing seating in the grassy area to accommodate educational talks and informal gatherings
- Maintain a strong volunteer camp host presence at this site
- Continue the seasonal closure of the site to allow DNR the opportunity to perform needed maintenance and to discourage homesteading during the winter months

Middle Waddell ORV Campground

Location: Thurston County, off the Waddell Creek County Road, 3.0 miles northwest of Littlerock, WA

Legal Description: S20,21, T17N, R3W

Lease: #69839

History/evolution

In the late 1950s, when the site was first established, it consisted of a small dirt spur with three picnic tables and two vault toilets and had no formalized lease. At that time, it was an unadvertised site. In a two-step process beginning in 1992, DNR began a formal expansion of the Middle Waddell Campground. This first phase was funded by IAC at a cost of \$146,800 and consisted of acquiring a legitimate lease and upgrading the facility to eight campsites. During the same time frame, the Yew Tree Campground, located off Waddell Creek Road, 0.5 miles north of Middle Waddell Campground, was abandoned due to misuse and environmental concerns.

In the mid 1990s, two other popular campgrounds nearby, the Bordeaux Campground and Mt. Molly Campground, were being heavily used and, unfortunately, were sustaining excessive amounts of vandalism and environmental damage. Therefore, it was decided to abandon these two sites and to further expand Middle Waddell Campground. This second expansion, done in 1996, took the facility from 8 campsites to the current 24 campsites. In doing so, two vault toilets and a host site with electricity and phone service were added and the campground was made ADA accessible. A DNR Washington Conservation Corps Crew did the majority of the work in phase two. In addition, the Middle Waddell day-use facility was constructed south of the campground.

Current

Middle Waddell ORV Campground offers a forested environment with campsites accessible for recreational vehicles under 24 feet in length. This facility has three loops. Loop “A” has 8 campsites; loop “B” has 7 campsites and loop “C” has 9 campsites, for a total of 24 campsites. In addition there are four vault toilets, a well and a camp host site. Middle Waddell Campground is one of the most highly used sites in the forest and is often fully occupied during the summer months. In past summers, DNR has successfully implemented a volunteer campground host program within Middle Waddell. These hosts have educated recreation users on the forests rules and regulations, done minor repair and maintenance work, and their presence reduces calls to DNR and law enforcement officers. In return, DNR provides hosts with a camp spot to locate an RV or trailer, power, phone and sewer hookup.

From the campground, ORV riders can access the Middle Waddell day-use facility and the motorized trail system, via trail #40. A temporary three-month closure of the site took place in the summer of 2003 due to lack of funding. However, in the 2004 Legislative session a bill was passed that allows the department to fund the site using NOVA money.

Management recommendations

- Continue to maintain a strong camp host presence at this site
- Maintain this site as the principle ORV campground within Capitol State Forest
- Continue the seasonal closure of the site to allow DNR the opportunity to perform needed maintenance and to discourage homesteading during the winter months

Middle Waddell Trailhead

Location: Thurston County, off the Waddell Creek County Road 2.8 miles northwest of Littlerock, WA

Legal Description: S28, T17N, R3W

Lease: #69839

History/evolution

Established in 1996, this site was constructed as part of the second Middle Waddell Campground expansion. The funding was provided by IAC. The main purpose of the site is to provide a trailhead for access to the motorized trail system. The site was also designed to act as a staging area from which organized recreation clubs can hold permitted, organized events.

Current

This site offers two ADA, accessible vault toilets, an information board and picnic tables. The site can accommodate approximately 80 vehicles, depending upon their size. No fires are allowed and overnight camping is prohibited. Access to ORV Trail #40 and the Middle Waddell Campground is available. Since this site was established, Middle Waddell has become the primary ORV staging area in the Capitol State Forest. This use has had significant impact upon the trails that originate here. One of the shortcomings of this site is the one access road for both egress and ingress. If two vehicles meet head-to-head, and if they both have trailers, it is difficult for them to maneuver.

Management recommendations

- Make needed site improvements to the facility, such as repaving and striping the parking area, constructing a covered pavilion, and constructing a second access road
- Continue to use this facility as a staging site for large, permitted events
- Continue to close this site during the winter months in order to discourage illegal trail riding

Rock Candy Trailhead

Location: Thurston County, off of the B-line road near State Hwy 8

Legal Description: S19,20, R18N, T3W

Lease: Right-of-way under BPA Power Lines

History/evolution

Built in the early 1990s this site was created as a trailhead for the motorized trail system. Located at the north edge of the forest, the site lies under BPA power lines and approximately 0.5 miles from private residences. The original construction included two toilets, an information board, and a rocked parking area defined with concrete Jersey barriers. In 2002, the Washington Conservation Corps constructed a new ADA accessible parking area, installed a new information board, and added an ADA accessible path to both toilet facilities.

Current

This two-acre site is a trailhead for the motorized trail system. Riders can access the Rock Candy west trail, which provides access to North Rim #1, heading west towards Porter Creek Campground and the Rock Candy east trail, which heads south towards Middle Waddell Trailhead and Campground. As a result, the site is a convenient place to park. The site is relatively small, with no camping facilities nearby; it does not easily facilitate the staging of large, permitted organized events.

This site was heavily used for access to the motorized trails when it was first constructed. Over the past 10 to 12 years, the Middle Waddell Trailhead has become the primary location for permitted ORV and Mountain biking events, as well as for day-use parking for access to the motorized trail system. Consequently, the motorized trails in the northeast quarter of the forest receive heavy use and need more frequent maintenance. There is a need to disperse this heavy use of the ORV trail system more evenly throughout the forest. In addition, without regular use of the Rock Candy Trailhead, vandalism to the site has become more of a problem. Recreation users have suggested that, if the site were upgraded, it would receive more riders. This would help meet our needs of spreading out the use on the ORV trails. Also, more frequent legitimate riders using a site often results in less vandalism.

Management recommendations

- Retain this facility as the primary trailhead in the northern half of the forest
- Conduct major site improvements/upgrades to this facility in an attempt to transfer more use from the Middle Waddell Trailhead to this site. Improvements may include enlarging the site, paving the parking area, better defining the site, improved signage and new restrooms
- Attempt to manage abuse/misuse problems associated with the site
- Develop partnerships with local ORV and mountain-biking clubs to assist in patrolling the trailhead and/or formal adoption of the site

Wedekind Trailhead (closed)

Location: Grays Harbor County, at the intersection of the C-Line and D-1000 roads

Legal Description: S21, T17N, R4W

Lease: #58129

History/evolution

This recreation facility was opened to the public on August 13th, 1967, on what was originally the site of the primary planting camp for early reforestation workers in Capitol State Forest. An attractive rustic shelter with a fire place, restroom facilities, corrals, a group campfire circle and several picnic tables were constructed throughout the years with General Fund money allotted from the Legislature. A large, grassy area also created a perfect setting for a picnic. The camp is located on one of the highest ridges in the forest and at one time, before the surrounding trees grew up, provided an unexcelled view of Mt. Rainier, Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens. Camp Wedekind was named for Mr. "O.B" Wedekind, who ran the planting camp and whose dedication and efforts "greened-up" Capitol State Forest.

Current

This is a small trailhead facility with one picnic site and a picnic shelter. It is located at the intersection of two main line roads, so vehicle access is easy, even though the site is remote. Camp Wedekind is a constant source of vandalism. From parties to 4x4 vehicles, this site is destroyed on a regular basis. Over the past several years, most of the primary structures have been destroyed. The two vault toilets were removed due to vandalism in 2002. In addition, the picnic shelter and corrals were heavily vandalized in 2004 and removed, and illegal 4x4 activity has destroyed the grassy picnic area. The area receives limited legitimate use as a trailhead. Camp Wedekind is difficult to patrol effectively due to its location and controlling access is difficult because there are three separate access roads to the site. Wedekind trailhead provides access to the non-motorized trail system via Mima Porter #8 and Trail #30. In 2004, continued vandalism of Wedekind Trailhead caused DNR to close the site and remove all of the structures for user safety.

Management recommendations

- In the short term, continue to remove the garbage and patrol the area as best as possible to allow for use as a trailhead
- Remove all structures from the site and eliminate this facility, moving its current lease elsewhere within the forest. (Potentially move the lease to the proposed Porter Creek Trailhead or maybe provide small rest stops with limited amenities, such as picnic tables, along the non-motorized trail system)
- Create a formal abandonment plan that revegetates the site and controls access and illegal activities

McLane Creek Nature Trail and Centennial Demonstration Forest

Location: Thurston County, off of the Delphi Road near Black Lake

Legal Description: S36, T18N, R3W

Lease: #61088 (nature trail only)

History/evolution

In 1976, a 1.5-mile trail was built around a portion of McLane Creek and its surrounding beaver ponds. The intention was to provide visitors with an interpretative hike whereby they could learn about the dynamics associated with this complex ecosystem and about the wildlife that call McLane Creek their home.

To further provide an educational experience, a trail winding through nearby forested trust land, named the Centennial Demonstration Forest, was established just east of McLane Creek. This trail runs through a mature Douglas-fir forest. Small areas are harvested in this forest at 10 to 15-year intervals, with the intent of teaching visitors about forest ecology and timber management practices. The McLane Creek area is a portion of the working forest, and is not a recreation site.

In 1994 improvements were made to the McLane Creek Nature Center, which included the addition of an ADA toilet and the reconstruction of most of the wooden boardwalk and platforms. In addition, an ADA accessible portion of trail, which originated from the parking lot, was built to bypass a steep trail segment. Lastly, at the far north end of the trail, an old puncheon structure was removed, and a wooden log stringer-bridge was replaced with an aluminum bridge.

Current

The McLane Creek Nature Center features a double loop interpretive trail, totaling approximately 1.7 miles. There are two restrooms, three viewing platforms, and several seating areas scattered throughout the site. The platforms and benches have views of the pond, the forest and associated vegetation. McLane Creek also provides a home for many species of birds and animals. The site's somewhat suburban location makes access very reasonable. This is a facility loved by thousands and very heavily used by the general public. Schools as far away as Fife, Washington, bring students to McLane Creek to educate them on this unique environment. Each year in the fall, salmon return to McLane Creek to spawn, which in itself attracts thousands of interested visitors. DNR had also partnered with the Thurston County Stream team, which provides on-site experts during the spawning season.

The trail through the Centennial Demonstration Forest is used at a less frequent rate, as compared to the trails within the McLane Creek Nature Center. The Centennial Trail system has signage, which is far outdated, and improvements need to be made to the trail surface.

The McLane Creek Nature Center and Centennial Demonstration Forest are showcase areas, which allow the department the opportunity to provide natural resource education to the public. However, the facility is near capacity during the summer and fall months and is quickly becoming run down. Boardwalk is in need of replacement, some informational signs can no longer be read because of sun damage, and areas of streamside vegetation have become trampled from the intense use. In addition, the site is funded with the state's General Fund, which has proved to be an unstable,

shrinking funding source. The demographics of the surrounding area is also changing. Development over the past 10 to 15 years has encroached upon the area, and harvesting in the Demonstration Forest is and will continue to become, more of an issue to neighbors.

Over the next several years, the department should strive to determine a long-term vision for the entire McLane Creek area and reevaluate its role in natural resource education. A more stable funding source needs to be identified and/or partnerships with other agencies and organizations sought. Once a clear vision and direction is known, an all-inclusive site-specific management plan for the area may be created.

Management recommendations

- Continue to maintain this site, as funding allows, providing for an outdoor educational experience
- Engineer and design a new south end crossing over McLane Creek to replace an aging log bridge
- Better control user access off of the long loop trail near McLane Creek
- Revegetate the streamside areas that have been trampled and denuded of vegetation by visitors
- Educate visitors and teachers on the appropriate use of the area and direct them to appropriate areas to view the salmon during spawning
- Train volunteers to lead tours and educate visitors
- Upgrade and update the current signage along the trail systems within McLane Creek and the Centennial Demonstration Forest
- Develop a new hiker-only nature trail off of the current long loop trail section that winds through the Capitol State Forest B-8000 area. (See trail section.)
- Partner with other agencies, organizations and volunteers to educate the public and assist with site maintenance

Appendix I

Capitol State Forest trail inventory

MOTORIZED TRAILS

Total miles = 88.70

North Rim #1 Trail (25.50 miles)

Access is from the Sherman Valley Road to the Noschka Road to the C-8000 and 100 feet up the C-8200 road. North Rim #1 begins in NW 1/4, SE 1/4, Section 7, T17N, R3W, just off of the C-8200 Road about 3200 feet. The trail goes to the east and then to the north, then west and southwest in a counter clockwise direction towards Porter Creek campground. It is about 24.25 miles long and crosses logging roads at 14 locations along its length to Porter Creek campground. There are seven streams that have bridges. There are as many as 50 to 60 other smaller crossings that have culverts. The trail ends in NW 1/4, NE 1/4, Section 12, T17N, R5W, just off of the B-1000 road about 1 mile east of Porter Creek campground.

Mount Molly Porter #3 Trail (20.90 miles)

Access to Mount Molly Porter #3 is Sherman Valley road to the C-Line, and up the C-Line about 2 miles. This trail begins right off of the C-Line in NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 18, T17N, R3W. This trail goes to the north and then in a westerly direction towards Porter Creek Campground. This trail is 20.9 miles long and crosses logging roads at 8 locations along its length to where it terminates on the North Rim #1. There about 50 stream crossings most of which are culvert crossings. There are four crossings that are bridges. Mount Molly Porter #3 trail ends at the NR #1 trail, in NW 1/4, SE 1/4, Section 6, T17N, R4W.

Rock Candy East Trail (2.25 miles)

Access to Rock Candy East Trail is from the Rock Candy Trailhead at the north end of the forest. The trail begins in the SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 20, T18N, R3W it goes 2.25 miles in a easterly and then southerly direction where it terminates on the North Rim #1 Trail at MP 6.4 in NW 1/4, NE 1/4, Section 29, T18N, R3W. This trail crosses logging rods only once along its length. There are eight stream crossings all of them are culverts. There are no bridges on this trail.

Rock Candy West Trail (2.25 miles)

Access to Rock Candy West Trail is from the Rock Candy Trailhead at the North end of the forest. The trail begins in the SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 20, T18N, R3W it goes south and then in a southwest direction for about 1.0 miles and terminates on the North Rim #1 Trail at mile point 8.8 in NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 30, T18N, R3W. This trail crosses logging roads 3 times. There are seven stream crossings all of them are culverts. There are no bridges on this trail.

Mt. Molly Loop Trail (7.70 miles)

Access to Mt. Molly Loop is Sherman Valley road to the C-Line, and up the C-Line about 2 miles. This trail begins off of Mt. Molly Porter #3 about 500 feet up the trail off of the C-Line in NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 18, T17N,

R3W. This trail goes for 6.70 miles to the north and then in a westerly and northerly direction where it terminates on Mount Molly Porter#3 trail at MP 7.55 in NW 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 31, T18N, R3W. This trail crosses logging roads 3 times. There are 9 stream crossings, 7 of them are culverts. There are 2 small bridges on this trail.

Middle Waddell Loop Trail (8.00 miles)

Access to Middle Waddell Loop Trail is from the day use facility at Middle Waddell Day use. Access is via the Delphi road to Waddell Creek road to the day use parking area. This trail begins in SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 28, T17N, R3W. Middle Waddell Loop Trail goes in a northerly direction for about 8.0 miles where it terminate on the North Rim #1 Trail at MP 4.0 in NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Section 32, T18N, R3W. This trail crosses logging roads 6 times. There are about 23 stream crossings that are culvert crossings. This trail has three bridges.

Lokki Trail (8.00 miles)

Access to Lokki Trail is from Rock Candy Day use up the B -Line. This trail begins right at the junction of the B-Line and the B-5000 in the NW 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 25, T18N, R4W. This trail goes in a north and westerly direction for 8.00 miles where it terminates on NR #1 at MP 15.4 in NW 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 22, T18N, R4W. There are no stream crossings on this trail. This trail crosses logging roads 5 times.

Trail #20 (2.1 miles)

Access to Trail # 20 is from the Delphi road to Waddell creek road north on Noschka to the end of the county road and then north on the C-8000. Trail #20 starts off Mt. Molly Porter #3 trail near the junction of the C-8000 and C-4700 roads in the SE 1/4, NW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 31, T17N, R3W. It crosses three roads and terminates on the B-8500 road and ties into the North Rim #1 trail in the SW 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 30, T18N, R3W. There are no stream crossings on this trail.

Trail #30 (4.50 miles)

Access to Trail # 30 is from the Delphi road to Waddell Creek Road north on Noschka to the end of the county road and then north on the C-8200. Trail #30 starts off Mt. Molly Porter #3 trail near the C-8200 in the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 6, T17N, R3W. It crosses three roads and terminates back onto the Mt. Molly Porter #3 in the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 2, T18N, R3W. There is one stream crossing on this trail.

Trail #40 (5.10 miles)

Access to Trail # 40 is from the Delphi road to Waddell Creek Road south to the Middle Waddell Day Use facility. Trail # 40 starts off Middle Waddell day use in the north end of the parking area trail near the C-8200 in the NE 1/4, SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 28, T17N, R3W. This trail goes in a westerly and north direction and then in north westerly direction this trail crosses three roads and terminates at the C-Line right where Mt. Molly Porter #3 begins in the NE 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 18, T17N, R3W. There is one stream crossing on this trail.

Trail #50 (2.00 miles)

Access to Trail #50 is from the A Line off of State Hwy #8 in the north end of the forest. Trail #50 starts south of the Thurston County ORV Park just outside of the Park's border in the NW 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 6, T18N,

R4W. This trail goes in an easterly and then in southerly direction. It does not cross any roads. There are two streams one is a bridge crossing and the other is a culvert. This trail terminates on the North Rim #1 trail in the NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 22, T18N, R4W.

Trail #51 (.40 miles)

Access to Trail # 51 is from the A Line off of State Hwy #8 in the north end of the forest. Trail # 51 starts south of the Thurston County ORV Park just outside of the Park's border in the NW 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 6, T18N, R4W. This trail goes in an easterly and then in westerly direction. It does not cross any roads. There are two streams one is a bridge crossing and the other is a culvert. This trail terminates on the A-Line in the NW 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 6, T18N, R4W.

CAMPGROUND/TRAILHEAD AND TRAIL ACCESS

Rock Candy trailhead gives you access to Rock Candy East (2.25 miles), and Rock Candy West (1.0 miles). These two trails give you access to North Rim #1 Trail at different points (5.4 and 8.4).

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

Total miles = 61.90

Mima Porter #8 (31.9 miles)

You gain access to Mima Porter #8 from Mima Falls Trailhead. Access is via Little Rock, west on 128th street, then south on Mima road to the Bordeaux road and then north on the Bordeaux road to Mima Falls trailhead. This trail begins right out of this facility in SE 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4, T16N, R3W. Mima Porter #8 leaves the facility in a northerly direction and generally goes in a north and westerly direction towards Porter creek campground. This trail is 31.9 miles long and crosses logging roads 13 times. There are at least 41 stream crossings, 11 of these crossings have bridges over the streams. This trail terminates on the Green Line #6 trail in SE 1/4, SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 7, T7N, R4W, about one mile directly east of Porter Creek Campground.

Green line 6 (21.0 miles)

You gain access to Green Line #6 from Mima Falls Trailhead. Access is via Little Rock, west on 128th street, then south on Mima road to the Bordeaux road and then north on the Bordeaux road to Mima Falls Trailhead. This trail begins out of the trailhead, in SE 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4, T16N, R3W. Green Line #6 leaves the trailhead in a northerly direction and generally goes in a north and westerly direction towards Porter Creek Campground. This trail is 21.0 miles long and crosses logging roads 13 times. There are at least 29 stream crossings, 4 of these crossings have bridges over the streams. This trail terminates on the B-1000 in NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 12, T7N, R5W, about 1/2 mile north of Porter Creek Campground.

Waddell Loop (3.0 miles)

Access to the Waddell Loop is off of Green Line #6 in SW 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 33, T17N, R3W. This trail is three mile long and loops back to itself and ends very near where it starts. You can also access this trail from

Margaret McKenny Campground and from the Evergreen Gun Club, which has a short access trail on the south end of this loop. This trail crosses logging roads six times and has five stream crossings, only one of these crossings has a bridge the rest are culvert crossings.

Trail #6A (2.25 miles)

Access to Green Line #6A is from Margaret McKenny campground. Access is via Little Rock, west on 128th street then north on Waddell Creek road to Margaret McKenny campground. This trail begins in NW 1/4, SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 33, T17N, R3W. This a short 2.25 mile long trail that gives you access to Waddell Loop and Green Line #6. This trail does not cross any roads and only has two stream crossings. There are no bridges. This trail ends at the SE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 28, T17N, R3W.

Trail #10 (0.70 miles)

To get to south end of trail #10, which is in the NW 1/4, NW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 32, T17N, R3W, you have to take Mima Porter #8 trail and go up this trail to mileage point 2.0. From here this trail goes in a north and easterly direction and is 0.7 miles long. It does not cross any roads and there are no stream crossings. This trail ends at the junction that is the E-9000 road and Green Line #6 and trail #10 in the NW 1/4, NW 1/4, N/W 1/4, Sec. 33, T17N, R3W.

Trail #20 (0.50 miles)

To gain access to trail #20, start from Littlerock, go west on 128th street, south on Mima road, west on Bordeaux road, take the E-Line and then go north on the D-4000 to the junction of the D-4400 road. Mima Porter #8 crosses this road at this location. Access to trail #20 then is north on the Mima Porter #8 for about 0.5 miles. This will get you to the south end of trail #20 which is in the NW 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 30, T17N, R3W. From here this trail goes in a northerly direction and is 1.3 miles long. It does not cross any roads and there are two stream crossings. The two stream crossings both have bridges. This trail ends at the junction that is Green Line #6 and trail #20 in the NE 1/4, SW 1/4, N/W 1/4, Sec. 30, T17N, R3W.

Trail #30 (0.70 miles)

To gain access to the south end of trail #30 start from Littlerock go west on 128th street, north on Waddell Creek road, west on the Sherman Valley road, west on the C-Line to camp Wedekind (closed). Trail #30 starts at Camp Wedekind (closed) in the SW 1/4, SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 21, T17N, R4W. From here this trail goes in a northerly direction and is 0.7 miles long. It crosses one road the C-Line. There are no stream crossings. This trail ends at the junction that is Green Line #6 and trail #30 in the SW 1/4, NE 1/4, N/W 1/4, Sec. 30, T17N, R4W.

Trail #40 (1.3 miles)

To gain access to the south end of trail #40 start from Littlerock go west on 128th street, north on Waddell Creek road, west on the Sherman Valley road, west on the C-Line to camp Wedekind (closed) west on the C-Line about 1 mile to where Trail #40 begins in NW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 21, T17N, R4W. From here this trail goes in a southerly direction and is 1.3 miles long. It crosses several roads and is on rebuilt logging road for some distance. There are two stream crossings. This trail ends at the junction that is Mima Porter #8 and trail #40 in the NE 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 28, T17N, R4W.

Trail #50 (1.0 miles)

To gain access to the east end of trail #50 start from Littlerock go west on 128th street, north on Waddell Creek road, west on the Sherman Valley road, west on the C-Line to where Green Line #6 crosses the C-Line. Go north and west on Green Line #6 for about 11/4 mile. Trail #50 begins in the SW 1/4, SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 14, T17N, R4W. From here the trail goes in a westerly and then to the south and is 1.0 mile long. There are three stream crossings and no bridges. This trail ends at the junction that is Mima Porter #8 and trail #50 and the C-Line, in the NW 1/4, SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 28, T17N, R4W.

HIKER TRAILS**Mima Mounds** (3.3 miles)

Access to Mima Mounds Natural Area is off the Waddell Creek road, just west of Littlerock.

McLane Creek (1.5 miles)

Access to McLane Creek Nature Center is from the Delphi Road in Thurston County.

Fuzzy Top (0.4 miles)

Access to this trail is off the Capitol Forest D-1000 and D-1500 roads, in the center of the forest.

North Creek/Sherman Valley (1.60 miles)

Access to the trail is from either North Creek Campground or Sherman Valley Campground of the Capitol Forest D-Line.

Cedar Creek (2.80 miles)

Access to the trail is from either North Creek Campground or Sherman Valley Campground of the Capitol Forest D-Line.

Porter Creek (0.7 miles)

Access to this trail is from the Capitol Forest C-Line. adjacent to the Porter Creek Campground.

Bob Bammert (1.0 miles)

Access to this trail is off the east end of the Capitol Forest E-Line, at the Bordeaux Entrance to the forest.

Drooping Fir (2.5 miles)

Access to Drooping Fir Trail is off the west end of the Capitol Forest D-Line, across from the North Creek Campground.

Appendix J

Proposed trail projects

Trail Project A

Objective

Evaluate the possibility of relocating the Middle Waddell Loop Trail in S16, T17N, R3W, to respond to noise complaints from the adjacent property owner.

Discussion

The private property owner in S15, T17N, R3W, has met with DNR staff to discuss the possibility of DNR moving a portion of the Middle Waddell Loop Trail. This neighbor would like to develop his property in the future, but claims the noise from the trail is excessive during summer months and ORV events. DNR did run a test in 2002 whereby we had quads run up and down the trail system. The noise from the trail could be clearly heard on the site of the private property and we would assume during a large-scale event that the noise would be quite loud.

Management strategy

- Engineer and design a cost effective trail reroute moving the trail segment in question further to the west away from the property line

Trail Project B

Objective

Explore the possibility of creating a single-track, multiple-use hiker and Mountain biking trail within the next 12 to 15 years.

Discussion

One of the outcomes of the public participation process was the concept of constructing a new trailhead and a 10 to 12 mile single track multiple use hiker and Mountain biking trail. The best location, at this time, for such an endeavor would be in the south end of the forest with the trailhead located somewhere off of the E-line. The motorized community was also interested in the possibility of using such a trail for motorcycles, maybe on a rotating basis with hikers and Mountain biking.

DNR staff researched the suggestion and thought the idea was valid, but that the development costs associated with a new trailhead and trail, such as restrooms, signs and cost of leasing the land would not fit into the 10-year time frame of this plan. It was also thought that a single-track trail used by motorcycles would be more difficult to get equipment and supplies into, to maintain. This type of trail would also give the department another type of use combination to manage and thus the ramifications of that would need to be considered.

The final recommendation is to keep the concept for a single track multiple use hiker and Mountain biking (and potentially motorcycle)

trail in the plan and revisit implementation again in approximately year 2014. However, if funding were available prior to 2014, earlier implementation would be considered if the project fit within the current management priorities.

Trail Project C

Objective

Explore the possibility of rerouting small sections of the ORV trail system in different locations throughout the forest where the trail is currently straight with little to no elevation gain.

Discussion

Since 2003 riders of the ORV trail system in Capitol State Forest have approached DNR requesting the department look into the possibility of rerouting some of the straight/flat sections of trail. The idea behind the request is to slow down expert riders and add a degree of difficulty to these sections. The sections in question are segments where the ORV trail is located on old railroad grades, which are flat and straight.

Management strategy

- Work with recreation user groups and riders to select a few locations that would be beneficial to reroute and make more difficult while taking into consideration those trail segments that if moved could benefit fish bearing streams
- Engineer and design relatively short ORV trail reroutes whereby small sections of flat/straight trail are abandoned and new sections constructed that incorporate tighter turns and some elevation gain if possible

Trail Project D

Objective

Expand the opportunities for hikers and those who like to observe nature by creating more hiker only trails.

Discussion

While collecting information from our Citizens Working Group and in talking with recreation users over the years it has become apparent that individuals would like to have more trail dedicated to hiking only. Currently the forest has approximately 10.5 miles of hiker only trail located at seven different sites within the forest.

Hiker-only trails are somewhat easier to construct as compared to motorized, horse or Mountain biking trails because they are narrower in width, can maneuver more easily up steep hills and require minimal hardening. Inmates crews or volunteers using hand tools can often construct these trails. Expensive structures such as steel bridges are not needed in most cases. Hiker-only trails afford DNR the opportunity to educate the public by placing signage about such topics as forest development, wildlife and tree identification, the practices of a “working forest,” and the history of Capitol State

Forest. Hiker-only trails also represent a good opportunity to involve Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and new clubs in the adopt-a-trail program. Trail adoption might be considered a critical piece to have in place prior to bring this project forward.

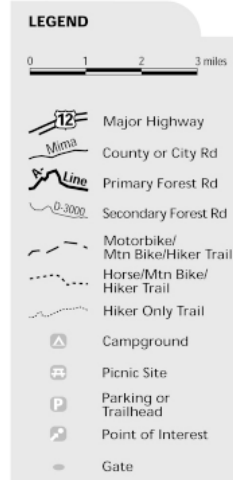
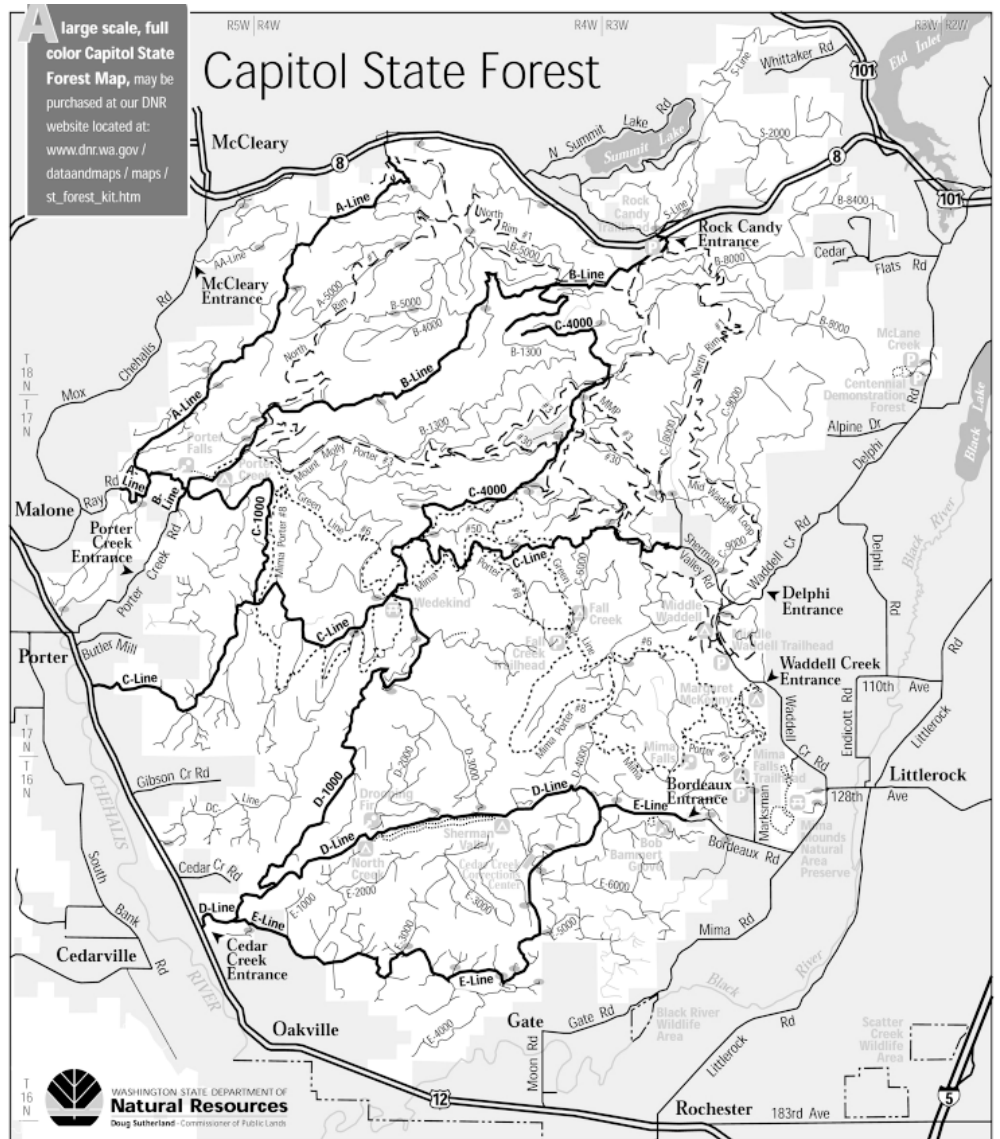
New hiker-only trails would be posted closed during management activities. Volunteers who have adopted trail segments could easily reconstruct or renovate these types of trails.

Possible management strategies

- Create a two to three mile hiking only loop off of the existing long loop trail at the McLane Creek Nature Center
- Create a 10 to 20 mile hiking only loop trail (The Triangle Trail) that connects the unique features of the Bob Bammert Grove to Fuzzy Top's old growth tree grove to the single Drooping Fir tree

Appendix K

Figure 7: Capitol State Forest map/brochure



Rules to remember

On the Roads

- || CAUTION: Few roads are paved and all have soft shoulders.
- || Logging trucks, heavy equipment, and other vehicles use these roads. Be ready to yield the right-of-way.
- || DRIVE WITH CAUTION: On forest management roads, keep speed under 25 mph.
- || Speed limit in camp and picnic sites is 5 mph.
- || Please do not litter.
- || Motorcycles, horses, and mountain bikes are allowed behind gated roads shown on this map unless roads are posted or abandoned.

On the Trails

- || Stay on signed, approved trails.
- || Unsigned trails are CLOSED.

Respect the rights of others on trails.

- || Do not ride in streams or on road berms.
- || Watch for unmarked hazards on trails.
- || Off-road vehicles (ORV) must have vehicle license or ORV permit tag, and U.S. Forest Service-approved spark arrestor.
- || Trails are closed to ORVs and horses, Nov. 1 to March 31.

In the Campsites

- || Respect sites designed for people with disabilities.

- || Camp only in designated campgrounds and campsites open April 1 – Oct. 31.
- || Do not alter or remove vegetation.
- || Limit fires to campsite fireplaces.
- || Do not burn pallets or treated wood.
- || Maintain quiet from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- || Do not shoot in or near recreation sites, trails, or roads. Check for hikers or other quiet users.
- || ORV use not permitted in campgrounds.
- || Use of fireworks is strictly prohibited.
- || Campsites are available first-come, first-served. No reservations.
- || Limit stay to 7 days per calendar year.

Above: This black and white map is available on DNR's website: www.dnr.wa.gov to download. A large-scale, full-color Capitol State Forest map is available for purchase at DNR's website.

